

FACT SHEET

Gary D. Preszler, Commissioner

COUNTY SERVICE FEE PAYMENTS

Beginning in 2000 the Land Department has paid a fee for maintenance of county and township roads in counties that contain school trust land. According to NDCC 15-04-23, the fee “may not be in an amount greater than the amount of the property taxes that would have been payable if the original grant lands in the county had been subject to property taxes levies” for county road and bridge purposes.

In March 2008, the Land Board made a payment - totaling \$90,315 - to the counties for maintenance of county and township roads.

The statute also states: “The board of county commissioners shall forward a prorated portion of any fee received under this section to the organized townships in which the original grant lands are located for use in the repair, maintenance, and construction of roads and bridges and shall use the remainder of the fee for the repair, maintenance, and construction of roads and bridges in unorganized townships in which original grant lands are located.” For more information contact Mike Brand at mbrand@nd.gov or call (701) 328-2800.

COUNTY PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES

Some lands are not subject to the payment for roads and bridges. Lands which were foreclosed and thus taken off the tax rolls are treated differently under the law. Because those lands were, at one time, on the tax rolls, the State Land Department makes a payment in lieu of taxes. The amount of this payment is calculated in the same manner as property taxes and paid to the affected counties.

In March 2008, the Board of University and School Lands made a payment totaling \$89,570 for the payment in lieu of taxes.

In total, the Board of University and School Lands paid nearly a \$180,000 to the counties in 2008. For more information, contact Mike Humann at mhumann@nd.gov or call (701) 328-2800.